Oswald, Lee H. Post-Russian Period

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WDS:mfd:14Feb64

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. J. Lee Rankin

FROM: Mr. William T. Coleman, Jr.

Mr. W. David Slawson

SUBJECT: Mexican Trip

1. Issuance of a Passport.

FACT - A citizen of the United States need not have a passport in order to travel in Mexico for short periods. Nevertheless, Oswald applied for a passport at the Passport Office in New Orleans, Louisiana, on June 24, 1963. His application states that he intended to stay abroad for from three months to one year and to visit England, France, Germany, Holland, USSR, Finland, Italy, and Poland. Passport Number D092526 was issued on June 25, 1963. It was marked for travel to all countries except Albania and Cuba and those portions of China, Korea, and Vietnam which are under Communist control. These limitations are standard and their occurrence on Oswald's passport therefore carries no special significance.

(Report of the Department of State, Lee Harvey Oswald Appendix on "Passports," pages 7-8; FBI Summary of the Assassination of President Kennedy, pages 68-69.)

COMMENT - As will appear later in this memorandum, Oswald probably got this passport in order that he could have it with him in Mexico, to use when he tried to travel from there to Cuba.

2. Issuance of a Mexican "Tourist Card."

FACT - On September 17 Oswald applied for and received a "tourist card" for visiting Mexico at the offices of the Mexican Consulate General in New Orleans. He was issued a type FM-8 tourist card, No. 24085, which was good for one journey into Mexico lasting no longer than 15 days. The card was issued to "Lee, Harvey Oswald," profession, photographer, employed at 640 Rampart Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.

(Commission No. 78, page 1; Commission No. 75, pages 570-571.)

3. Departure from New Orleans.

FACT - Lee Oswald left his apartment at 4906 Magazine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana on the evening of September 24 or 25, probably on September 24. Marina Oswald and Mrs. Ruth Paine left the apartment in Ruth Paine's station wagon on the morning of the previous day, and therefore probably on September 23. When he left, Oswald was carrying two suitcases. When she left New Orleans, Marina knew that Oswald was intending to go to Mexico City shortly after she left. However, she also knew that her husband wanted his intention kept secret and therefore both she and Lee Oswald lied to Ruth Paine, telling her that Lee planned to travel either to Houston, Texas, or Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in search of employment. Marina also knew that Lee's purpose, or at least one of his purposes, in going to Mexico was to visit the Russian and Cuban Embassies there to do all he could to obtain permission to travel to Cuba.

COMMENT - Both Marina and Mrs. Paine are quite certain that they left New Orleans in the morning and that the station wagon had been packed the previous day, but Marina is very vague on the exact date of leaving. Ruth Paine has stated that the time of leaving was September 23, but she is not absolutely certain of this date. (Commission No. 5, page 383.)

The address of the Oswalds' apartment was 4907 Magazine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. The apartment house was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Jesse James Garner, 4911 Magazine Street, New Orleans. (SS No. 641, page 9.) Mrs. Garner states that Mrs. Oswald and Ruth Paine left by station wagon on September 22. (Ibid) Mr. Garner states that Lee Oswald was seen in the neighborhood after his wife had left but that by September 24 or 25, he entered the apartment and found it vacant. (Ibid) A neighbor of the Oswalds, Mr. Eric Rogers, saw Oswald leave the apartment about 6:00 or 7:00 o'clock in the evening, carrying two suitcases, running for a bus, the day after the day upon which Ruth Paine and Marina Oswald left. This would probably be the day of September 24. (Commission No. 170, pages 2 and 10-11.) A city bus driver states that he remembers picking up a man fitting the description of Lee Oswald about this time of day and helping him place his two "rectangular" suitcases in the bus where they would not disturb other passengers, at this street corner, but he does not remember exactly which day this was. (Commission No. 170, pages 10-11.) This same bus driver states that the man asked directions to the Greyhound Bus Station. Oswald's unemployment check was cashed sometime

between 4:00 P.M., September 24 and 4:00 P.M., September 25. (Commission No. 170, pages 14-16.) A post office change of address card dated September 24 and signed by Lee Oswald has been found by the New Orleans Post Office. (Commission No. 7, page 328.) Dr. and Mrs. John B. McFarland, British tourists from No. 10 Fulwood Park, Liverpool 17, England, who met Lee Oswald on the bus to Mexico City, quote him as having said that he left New Orleans on September 25. (FBI Supplemental Report, page 118; Commission No. 152, page 1.)

Marina knew that Oswald was intending to go to Mexico City. She also knew that at least one of his purposes for going there was to visit the Soviet and Cuban Embassies to do all he could to obtain permission to travel to Cuba. She has testified that this was his only purpose. Oswald was quite concerned that she keep both the trip and its purpose strictly secret. Mrs. Ruth Paine, who stayed with the Oswalds at their residence in New Orleans a few days before she drove Marina back to Irving, Texas, in the Paine station wagon, was not told anything about the Mexican trip. Both Oswald and Marina lied to Ruth Paine and told her that Oswald intended to travel either to Houston, Texas or Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in search of employment. (Commission No. 5, page 383; Testimony of Marina Oswald before the Commission, pages 277-278, 286-287, and 317.)

4. Travel from New Orleans to Houston, Texas, or some other Midway Points.

FACT - Nothing is certain here.

COMMENT - All efforts to trace Lee Oswald's departure from New Orleans on or about this time through airlines, buses and railroads have been negative. Moreover, Continental Trailways Bus Company has reported that it sold no tickets whatever at its New Orleans office for travel from New Orleans to Laredo, Texas, or for travel from New Orleans through to Mexico City between September 14 and October 1. (Commission No. 75, pages 636-637.) This is especially significant because we have fairly good evidence that Oswald arrived at Laredo, Texas, on a Continental Trailways bus, probably having boarded it at Houston. (Commission No. 78, page 4.) Therefore, it seems probable that Oswald either left New Orleans for Houston or some other midway point by means other than bus, train or railroad, perhaps by hitchhiking or taking a pre-arranged automobile ride with someone else, or that he purchased a ticket from New Orleans to Houston or some other midway point, left New Orleans immediately for this midway point, stayed there and transacted some sort of business or

other, and then resumed his journey to Mexico City by boarding the Continental Trailways bus to Laredo, Texas.

5. Travel from Houston, Texas to Laredo, Texas.

FACT - Lee Oswald boarded Continental Trailways bus No. 5133 destined for Laredo, Texas in the early morning of September 26, probably at about 2:15 A.M. and probably at Houston, Texas. This bus was scheduled to arrive in Laredo at 1:20 P.M. on September 26.

COMMENT - Continental Trailways bus No. 5133, which originated in Jackson, Mississippi, met Continental Trailways bus No. 5120, which originated in New Orleans, Louisiana, at the town of Kinder, Louisiana. At that point, all passengers on bus 5120 who were continuing to points west of Lake Charles, Louisiana, transferred to bus No. 5133. (Commission No. 183, page 24.) On board bus No. 5133, having boarded it at Jackson, Mississippi, were Dr. and Mrs. John B. McFarland of Liverpool, England. They stayed on this bus until it came to the end of its route at Laredo, Texas. At Laredo they transferred to the Mexican bus line going to Mexico City and during the course of these two trips they occasionally conversed with Lee Oswald. The McFarlands have stated that they observed Oswald board the Continental Trailways bus upon which they were travelling on or about 2:00 A.M. on September 26, in Houston, Texas. (Commission No. 78, page 4.) Continental Trailways bus schedules show that bus No. 5133 should have arrived in Houston at 2:15 A.M., and the records disclose that it carried four passengers destined for a point beyond Texas. (Commission No. 183, page 25.) It has been established that the bus driver from Beaumont, Texas, to Houston, Texas, was D. B. Wells of 1402 Caplin, Houston. Whether he also drove the bus beyond Houston has not been determined. (Commission No. 183, page 24.) Mr. Wells was contacted and has stated that he cannot remember having observed Oswald on this bus. The driver who took over after Wells has also failed to identify Oswald. (Commission No. 191, pages 8-9.)

Bus No. 5133 was scheduled to arrive in Laredo, Texas at 1:20 P.M. on September 26. (Commission No. 183, pages 22-23.)

The cost of a bus ticket from Houston to Laredo has not been ascertained.

6. Travel from Laredo, Texas, to Nueva Laredo, Mexico.

FACT - Lee Oswald crossed into Mexico at Nueva Laredo

on September 26. In all probability, this was some time between 1:20 P.M. and 2:15 P.M.

COMMENT - The Mexican border town corresponding to Laredo, Texas is Nueva Laredo, Mexico. Our information does not show whether the Mexican bus line crosses the border to pick up passengers arriving from America, or whether the American bus line crosses the border to deliver its passengers to the Mexican bus line, or whether the passengers walk or take local transportation across the border.

The rubber stamp impressions appearing on both the original and the duplicate copy of Oswald's tourist card show that he went through customs at Nueva Laredo on September 26. (Commission No. 78, page 1.) The time of day of his crossing the border can be bracketed by the arrival and departure times of the buses, as established in paragraphs 5 and 7 of this memorandum.

There is one inconsistency here, however. The FBI has furnished us with what purports to be a complete list of all persons entering Mexico at Nueva Laredo on September 26, furnished to the FBI by Mr. Harvey Cash, American Consul at Nueva Laredo. This list does not contain Oswald's name. (Commission No. 71, pages 9-21.)

7. Travel from Nueva Laredo, Mexico, to Mexico City.

FACT - Oswald left Nueva Laredo on bus No. 516 of the Flecha Roja bus line at about 2:15 P.M. on September 26. He carried with him a single piece of luggage, probably a small zipper bag. The cost of this trip was about $10.00. He displayed a knowledge of Mexico City to some of his fellow passengers and told at least one couple travelling in the same bus that his purpose in journeying to Mexico City was to evade the American travel ban against travel to Cuba.

COMMENT - The baggage manifest for bus No. 516 of the "Flecha Roja" bus lines lists Oswald as a passenger on September 26. This bus left Nueva Laredo at 2:15 P.M. of that day and was scheduled to have left at 2:00 P.M. (Commission No. 78, page 4.) Oswald had ticket No. 320435. (Commission No. 188, pages 10-21.)

Two Australian girls boarded this bus at Monterey, Mexico. They conversed during the journey with Oswald. He recommended to them that they stay at the "Hotel Cuba" in Mexico City because it was good but inexpensive. They also observed during the journey and after he got off

the bus and was standing in the station at Mexico City that he had one suitcase, a small zipper bag. (Commission No. 306, pages 3-5 and 7-9.) The baggage manifest for this particular bus line confirms their observation that he had only one suitcase. (Commission No. 188, pages 10-11, when read in conjunction with Commission No. 203, page 4, Commission No. 135, and Commission No. 156, pages 2-3.) The baggage manifest describes Oswald's baggage as a "valez." I do not know the Spanish translation of this term.

The Australian girls also observed that Oswald got off the bus at virtually every rest stop between Nueva Laredo and Mexico City to eat Mexican food, which he commented to them he loved.

Another passenger on the bus, later identified as probably a "Mr. John H. Bowen," who reportedly spoke fluent Spanish and who told the girls he had lived in and around Mexico for twenty years, but who said he came originally from England, was observed by the girls to have spoken with Oswald. He commented briefly to the girls that Oswald seemed to display a familiarity with Mexico and seemed to have been there before. One of the girls remembers this conversation as having been that this elderly gentleman referred to Oswald's knowledge of Mexico City rather than Mexico generally. (Commission No. 306, pages 3-4 and 7-8.) Efforts to locate this Mr. Bowen have so far been negative, but he has been described by a friend as an ordained Baptist minister, formerly engaged in fund-raising for his church in Mexico, now retired. (Commission No. 329, page 241.)

Some time during the trip Oswald told the McFarlands that his purpose in going to Mexico was to evade the American travel ban on Cuba and to get to Cuba where he could meet Castro. (Commission No. 78, page 4.)

Tickets from Nueva Laredo to Mexico City, at least if they are purchased from Continental Trailways in New Orleans, are $10.00 for a one-way trip. The cost of a round trip is not known. (Commission No. 183, page 22.)

8. Arrival at Mexico City.

FACT - Oswald arrived in Mexico City at about 10:00 A.M. on September 27.

COMMENT - The Flecha Roja bus upon which Oswald was riding arrived in Mexico City on or about 10:00 A.M. on

September 27. (Commission No. 306, page 2.) As previously stated, our evidence is fairly firm that Oswald arrived at the bus station with one suitcase, a small zipper bag.

9. Oswald's Stay in Mexico City.

FACT - Oswald was registered at the Hotel del Comercio, Calle Sahugan 19, Mexico City from September 27 through the night of October 1. He registered as "Lee, Harvey Oswald, proceeding from the U.S.A. (Texas), a photographer and a U.S. citizen." While in Mexico City he contacted both the Soviet and Cuban Embassies, the former at least once and the latter two or three times, ostensibly to obtain permission to travel to Cuba. We have no firm evidence that his real purpose was any different from his ostensible purpose.

COMMENT - Oswald registered at the Hotel del Comercio, Calle Sahagun 19, in Mexico City on September 27. He registered as "Lee, Harvey Oswald, proceeding from the U.S.A. (Texas), a photographer and a U.S. citizen." The comma following Oswald's first name and the fact that he was posing as a photographer probably derived from the fact that this comma somehow slipped into his name when his tourist card was made out and that the tourist card also listed him as a photographer. Oswald paid his bill at the hotel on October 1, the payment including the night of October 1. No one remembers when he checked out, but presumably it was sometime during the morning or early afternoon of October 2.

Oswald's activities in Mexico City are not known with a high degree of certainty or exactitude. The address book found among his effects after his arrest following the assassination lists what appear to be the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Soviet and Cuban Embassies in Mexico City and also a Cuban airline. In addition, the name "Silvia Duran" is written under the Cuban Embassy address. (Commission No. 205, pages 688-89; SS No. 515.) Presumably the Cuban airline address was for Oswald to use if he got clearance from the two embassies to travel to Cuba, but so far it appears that no investigation has been made of this address. In his letter to the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D. C., dated November 19, 1963, Oswald states that he had contacted the Soviet Embassy in Mexico, indicates that he also contacted the Cuban Consulate there and also infers that his purpose in being in Mexico had something to do with Cuba, the last by stating that he had hoped to reach the Soviet Embassy in Havana "as planned." (FBI Exhibit No. 57.) An early draft of this letter was observed by Ruth Paine in Irving, Texas (Commission No. 5, page 196) and was found in Oswald's room

after the assassination. To the extent that the draft differs from the final copy and shows crossed-out words and phrases, it tends to bear out the hypothesis that Oswald's purpose in Mexico was simply to get to Cuba and tends to counteract the inference which can be drawn from the final copy of the letter that Oswald, with the knowledge or even the cooperation of the Russian Embassy in Washington, had planned to carry out something highly secret and subversive. Finally, Marina Oswald has testified to the Commission (Transcript, pages 286-90) that when Oswald returned to Texas after his trip to Mexico he told her that aside from going to the two embassies, in an effort to do all he could do to get to Cuba, he had done nothing but see a bull fight, visit museums and go sight-seeing.

The foregoing general information has been supplemented by the CIA in a memorandum dated 31 January 1964. The CIA has stated that its sources of information for this report are very reliable. The information in the report nevertheless has two important weaknesses. First, a large part of it is simply a summation of what the Mexican police learned when they interrogated Mrs. Silvia Duran, an employee of the Cuban Consulate in Mexico City, and is therefore only as accurate as Mrs. Duran's testimony to the police. Second, in many respects the information contained in the report is ambiguous as to what actually was going on. We have sent a letter to the CIA asking for clarification of these ambiguities but some of them, of course, may be inherent in the source material itself. Subject to these qualifications, Oswald's actions in Mexico City included the following:

Friday, September 27:

As previously stated, the bus upon which Oswald arrived at Mexico City was scheduled to arrive there at 10:00 A.M.

In "mid-afternoon" Mrs. Silvia Duran, an employee of the Cuban Embassy, informed the Soviet Embassy that Oswald had asked for a Cuban in-transit visa for use on his way to Russia. She told the Soviet Embassy that the Cuban Embassy would issue such a visa if they "were assured" that a Russian visa was forthcoming. It is not clear, but it appears that Oswald at this time told Mrs. Duran that he had been to the Soviet Embassy earlier that day. The Soviet Embassy replied to Mrs. Duran to the effect that Oswald had, in fact, been to see them, had shown them a letter from the Soviet Embassy in Washington confirming that he had applied for and was awaiting a Soviet visa and had also shown them a letter

attesting that he was "a member of a pro-Cuban organization"; in addition, the Russian Embassy said that Oswald had told them that he could not get a Cuban visa unless he had already received a Russian visa. The conversation between the embassies also included some references to Oswald not knowing anyone in Cuba or not being known in Cuba, or in Russia, etc., but all this is very unclear at this point.

The Soviet Embassy told Mrs. Duran that it would take a long time to get a Soviet visa for Oswald, such things sometimes taking 4 or 5 months. Mrs. Duran then told Oswald that she could not give him an in-transit visa unless she first got a Soviet visa and that therefore there was nothing more to be done at this time at the Cuban Embassy.

Saturday, September 28:

Oswald again visited the Cuban Embassy and apparently stayed there for a rather long period. Silvia Duran again contacted the Russian Embassy, spoke to two persons there and put Oswald "in direct contact" with one of them. It is not clear whether she put Oswald on the telephone to one of these two men or whether she arranged a meeting between them at the Russian Embassy. Some discussion went on between Oswald and this Russian official as to an "address," presumably Oswald's.

Oswald came back later the same day to the Cuban Embassy and spoke again to Silvia Duran. She repeated what he had already been told several times: that he must first get a Soviet visa, and this would take considerable time. She gave Oswald a slip of paper with her name and telephone number on it, telling him to call her when he got his Soviet visa. She said he never called back.

Friday or Saturday, September 27-28:

It is not clear when, but at some point during Oswald's visits to the Cuban Embassy, Mrs. Duran requested that the Cuban Consul himself, a Mr. Eusebio Azque, speak to Oswald, which he did. Mr. Azque also personally spoke with the Soviet Embassy and confirmed that there would probably be a four-month waiting period for a Soviet visa. He then explained again to Oswald that he could not get a Cuban in-transit visa unless he first got a Russian visa and advised him to leave Mexico and come back later when he had received a Russian visa, which might be as much as 4 months later. Oswald at this point got angry and there was an argument.

Sunday, September 29:

No information.

Monday, September 30:

No information.

Tuesday, October 1:

A man who fits the description of Oswald in "mid-morning" contacted the Soviet Military Attache in Mexico City, saying he had been to the Soviet Embassy the previous Saturday and been told by the Soviet Consul that they were sending a telegram to Washington, and he asked the Military Attache whether there had been a reply to that telegram. The Military Attache replied to Oswald that he should inquire at the Consulate." Oswald went to the Russian Embassy and spoke to the guard in what is described as "halting" Russian, saying he had been there two days earlier, that there had been a telegram, etc., and asking whether there had been a reply to the telegram. After trying to establish by physical descriptions who at the Embassy Oswald had spoken to two days earlier, the guard stated that if it was a dark man it was probably "Kostikov." The guard then left Oswald outside of the Embassy, went in himself and spoke with someone, returned and said that the telegram had been sent but that no reply had been received.

Wednesday, October 2:

No information.

10. Departure from Mexico City.

FACT - Oswald left Mexico City for Nueva Laredo at about 1:00 P.M. on October 2 on a bus of the "Transportes Frontera" bus line.

COMMENT - A ticket for Seat No. 4 on a "Transportes Frontera" bus leaving Mexico City for Nueva Laredo at 1:00 P.M. on October 2, scheduled arrival time in Nueva Laredo 6:00 A.M. on October 3, was sold to Lee H. Oswald by this Mexican bus line. There were two drivers on this bus and neither one of them was able to identify Oswald as having been on the bus with them, but both drivers testified that this did not at all mean that he was not on the bus, because they commonly pay no attention whatever to the passengers. (Commission No. 78, page 3.)

11. Travel from Mexico City to Nueva Laredo.

FACT - No information except that the bus on which Oswald was riding arrived at Nueva Laredo at approximately 6:45 A.M. on October 3, 45 minutes later than scheduled.

COMMENT - Aside from the fact that Oswald was almost certainly on the bus scheduled as aforestated, we have no information on him at this time other than the testimony of one of the drivers that the bus' actual arrival time in Nueva Laredo was about 6:45 A.M. on October 3. (Commission No. 78, page 3.)

12. Crossing Mexican Border at Nueva Laredo into the United States at Laredo, Texas.

FACT - Oswald crossed the border into the United States on October 3, 1963, probably shortly after 6:45 A.M.

COMMENT - Oswald's Mexican Tourist Card bears a stamp showing that he left Mexico at Laredo on October 3, 1963. (Commission No. 78, page 1.) Strangely, the Mexican Immigration Service records at Nueva Laredo are reported to show that he left Mexico, "method of travel, automobile, destination, New Orleans." (Commission No. 6, pages 316, 318 and 320.) It is not clear from the material that we have whether the Mexican Immigration records show that Oswald was actually travelling by automobile when he crossed the border or merely that he stated an intention to travel by automobile after he crossed the border.

13. Travel from Laredo, Texas to Dallas, Texas.

FACT - Nothing certain is known here.

COMMENT - Nothing is known of this portion of Oswald's trip. There is some rather weak testimony that he may have been driving a 1953 Ford truck, this testimony being given by a hitchhiker supposedly picked up by Oswald, but the identification was not very convincing and it seems unlikely that Oswald would have been driving a truck by himself at this time. (Commission No. 132, page 25.)

14. Arrival in Dallas, Texas.

FACT - Oswald arrived in Dallas some time during the afternoon or late morning of October 3.

COMMENT - The earliest trace left by Oswald in Dallas was his appearing at the office of the Texas Employment Commission, 2210 Main Street, Dallas, on October 3. (Commission No. 5, pages 212-213; Commission No. 7, page 349; and Commission No. 75, page 501.) He also registered at the YMCA, 605 North Ervay Street, to spend the night of October 3. (Secret Service No. 641, page 9.)

15. Some Incidents Occurring Shortly after Oswald's Return from Mexico.

FACT - During the days of October 4, 5, and 6, Oswald stayed with Marina at the home of Ruth Paine in Irving, Texas, 2515 West Fifth Street. (Secret Service No. 641, page 9.) He then took a small room at 621 North Marsalis Street, Dallas, Telephone No. WH 2-1985. He stayed here under his own name from October 7 through October 14. (Secret Service No. 641, page 10.) He then took a room at 1026 Beckley Street, Dallas, and stayed there until he was arrested following the assassination of the President. He was known to the landlady on Beckley Street and to all others in and around the premises as "O. H. Lee." She says that he frequently spoke a foreign language on the telephone which sounded like German or Russian and that on occasion he ended a call with the word, "Adios." We know that many, if not all, of these calls were to Marina. (Commission No. 7, page 117; Commission No. 5, pages 386-387 and Secret Service No. 641, page 10.)

In early November 1963, probably on November 12, Lee Oswald mailed a letter to the Russian Embassy in Moscow. (FBI Exhibit 57.) Marina has testified that he made up to ten (10) drafts of the letter, apparently being very concerned that it create exactly the impression he desired. The relative neatness of the letter itself and the fact that only a few words in it are misspelled - both unusual for Oswald - tend to confirm Marina's testimony on this point. The letter reads in part as follows:

> "This is to inform you of recent events since my meetings with comrade Kostin in the Embassy Of the Soviet Union, Mexico City, Mexico.
>
> I was unable to remain in Mexico indefinily because of my mexican visa restrictions which was for 15 days only. I could not take a chance on requesting a new visa unless I used my real name, so I retured to the United States.

I had not planned to contact the Soviet embassy in Mexico so they were unprepared, had I been able to reach the Soviet Embassy in Havana as planned, the embassy there would have had time to complete our business.

Of corse the Soviet embassy was not at fault, they were, as I say unprepared, the Cuban consulate was guilty of a gross breach of regulations, I am glad he has since been replaced.

* *

Please inform us of the arrival of our Soviet entrance visa's as soon as they come.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION

The most serious gaps in our knowledge exist in the period of Oswald's stay in Mexico City. We have already requested the CIA to take certain additional investigatory steps in this respect in a letter addressed to the CIA, Attention: Mr. Richard Helms, dated February 11, 1964. In addition to the points dealt with in that letter I recommend that the CIA be requested to look into two other matters.

Page 47 of Oswald's address book contains the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Cuban Embassy, the Russian Embassy and the American Embassy in Mexico City and certain figures on the exchange rates between American and Mexican currency. It also contains the entry, "Cubano Airlines, Paseo de la Reforma, 56, 35-79-00." The aforementioned letter to the CIA draws their attention generally to this page in the notebook, but I recommend that we also specifically ask them to find out the price of a one-way ticket from Mexico City to Havana. If, as seems to be the case, Oswald intended to go Cuba immediately on getting the necessary clearances from the Cuban and Soviet Embassies, the question arises, Did he have enough money with him to fly from Mexico City to Havana, and if not, where would he have expected to get it? The evidence we have so far in the case points to the conclusion that Oswald had very little money at this time. He had been unemployed for about 2 months. The reason given by Marina for going with Ruth Paine to Irving, Texas in late September is that she was not getting the medical and other attention which her pregnancy required in New Orleans, largely because of

Oswald's lack of money. And, apparently, the very first thing that Oswald did when he arrived in Dallas was to go to the Texas Employment Commission to apply for an unemployment compensation check.

Examination of the address book in the original shows that Oswald used pens and inks of many different kinds in making various entries. For example, on the page which contains the names and addresses of the embassies in Mexico City all these names and addresses are obviously from the same pen and the same ink, but the name, "Silvia Duran," is in a different ink and was probably written with a ball-point pen. This strongly indicates that Oswald got the names and addresses of the embassies at some earlier time, perhaps before he left New Orleans, and that he wrote down Silvia Duran's name after he had met her at the Cuban Embassy. It would be interesting to know if the same ball-point pen that was used to write her name was also used to make other entries in the notebook. This would be especially significant because what appears to be an alternate telephone number for the Russian Embassy in Mexico City seems to be from a pen which is different from both that used to write "Silvia Duran" and from that used to write the names and addresses of the several embassies. This points to the fact that Oswald did not have a pen with him but was borrowing pens to make these entries and therefore probably borrowed one pen at the Cuban Embassy to write "Silvia Duran" and another at the Russian Embassy to write the alternate telephone number. It follows from this that if any other entry in the notebook is from the same pen and ink as the "Silvia Duran" entry or the alternate telephone number, that it was probably made at the same time and place as these other entries were made. To carry this conjecture out even further, there is what appears to be a floor diagram on page 4 of this notebook and it is written in an ink which could be the same as that used for "Silvia Duran." If this proves to be the case, it could mean that the floor plan was drawn while Oswald was at the Cuban Embassy. Obviously my analysis so far is much too highly conjectural, but it indicates the kind of inferences that could legitimately be taken from a closer analysis of the address book. I recommend therefore that we ask that a CIA expert on this sort of thing be assigned the task of analyzing the entire notebook to give us a report on what entries were probably made by Oswald with the same pen and ink. If this kind of analysis is feasible, the information gained could prove to be extremely helpful.

Ruth Paine has stated that she and Marina spent the first night of their journey to Irving, Texas, in a motel in Texas just across the Louisiana border. (Commission No. 5, page 383.)

If they can be found, the motel records should fix this date with certainty, and the time when Oswald left the apartment on Magazine Street in New Orleans can then be tied down fairly well. Mrs. Paine should be re-interviewed on the route she and Marina drove, the physical description of the motel, etc., and the FBI should then be asked to locate the motel and, hopefully, find the record of Mrs. Paine's and Marina's stay there.

There are many gaps in our knowledge of Lee Oswald's travels from New Orleans to Mexico City and from Mexico City to Dallas, Texas. The gaps concerning his travel in the United States, however, seem at this time to be practically unremediable, because the FBI has already carried through every plausible kind of investigation, always with negative results.

There are several gaps and inconsistencies in our knowledge of Oswald's travels from the Mexican border to Mexico City and return. These are explained and dealt with in two letters to Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, both dated February 12, 1964, requesting further investigation on these points, a copy of which is attached hereto.

We probably should ascertain the cost of travelling by bus along the route taken by Oswald. This is not a very important bit of information, but it may come in handy in trying to work out Oswald's finances. The FBI should be able to obtain this information for us rather easily. In particular, we should ask the FBI to find the cost of travel by bus from New Orleans to Houston, from Houston to Laredo, from Nueva Laredo to Mexico City and return (both one way and round trip) and from Laredo to Dallas. The Houston-to-Laredo journey was via Continental Trailways, the Nueva Laredo-to-Mexico City trip by "Flecha Roja," and the Mexico City-to-Nueva Laredo trip by "Transportes Frontera." The other portion of Oswald's journey cannot be traced to a bus line, but if he used commercial transportation, considering the state of his finances, it almost certainly would have been a bus.

The FBI has still not been able to locate Mr. John H. Bowen, reportedly a fellow passenger of Oswald's on the bus to Mexico City who conversed with him during the journey. The most recent report is that he left early in November 1963 for Europe on an extended speaking tour for his employer, the Baptist Church. (Commission No. 202.) I assume that the FBI will continue to try to reach Mr. Bowen and therefore, until we

learn otherwise, I have no recommendation for further action here.

Note: The foregoing memorandum was written without my having read more than the first day and a half of Marina's testimony before the Commission, and that only hurriedly. I understand that her later testimony bears in part on the Mexican trip. This memorandum may of course have to be modified after I read the rest of her testimony.